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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent application of:

Tatsuji HIGUCHI et al.

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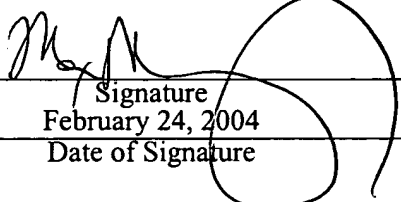
Sir:

Submitted herewith is a copy of art together with a form listing the same for the convenience of the Examiner.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 24, 2004:

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